

REMARKS

The outstanding Office Action requires a restriction of Claims 1-20 into Group I, drawn to an optical scanner, and Group II, drawn to an image forming apparatus.

Claim 12 is amended into independent form and to recite an "image forming apparatus," thus belonging to Group II.

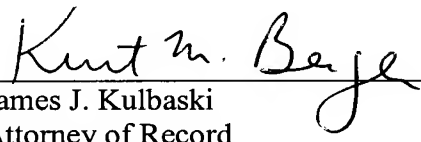
The outstanding Office Action asserts that Claims 19 and 20 belong to Group I, but Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 19 and 20 are directed to an image forming apparatus, thus belonging to Group II.

Accordingly, Applicants elect without traverse Group II, directed to an image forming apparatus, encompassing Claims 7-10 and 12-20. Applicants make this election based on the understanding that Applicants are not prejudiced against filing one or more divisional applications that cover the non-elected claims.

Accordingly, an action on the merits of Claims 7-10 and 12-20 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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